

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1132

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL NICE

UNCLAS MARSEILLE 0050

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PINT, ELAB, FR

SUBJECT:DEFFERRE ATTACKS COMMUNISTS, CGT FOR LOCAL LABOR VIOLENCE

1. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FORCE OUVRIERE AND CGT MEMBERS OF MARSEILLE CITY EMPLOYEES UNION PRODUCED OPEN CONFRONTATION MORNING OF FEBRUARY 2 RESULTING IN HOSPITALIZATION OF F.O. SECRETARY GENERAL FRANCOIS MOSCATI FOLLOWING ASSAULT BY CGT REPRESENTATIVE VINCENT MANCA. MOSCATI, REPRESENTING F.O. MAJORITY (81 PERCENT) OF CITY EMPLOYEES UNION, ATTACKED BY CGT REPRESENTATIVE MANCA AS HE ATTEMPTED MEDIATE WILDCAT STRIKE OF CGT MEMBERS WHO HAD BLOCKED GARAGE EXIT TO CITY GARAGE TRUCKS.

2. INCIDENT BROUGHT PROMPT AND STRONG REACTION FROM DEPUTE-MAIRE DEFFERRE. DEFFERRE'S PROVENCAL OF JANUARY 3 RAN ARTICLE HEADED 'SECRETARY GENERAL OF F.O. MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES SAVAGELY ATTACKED BY CGT MILITANTS'. SUBHEAD READ, 'METHODS THAT RECALL NAZIISM'. TEXT DESCRIBED ATTACK AND STATED, 'THIS COWARDLY ATTACK SHOWS THAT CERTAIN MEN, OF THE CGT, DO NOT ACCEPT A DEMOCRATIC VERDICT WHEN IT IS UNFAVORABLE TO THEM' AND UNDERLINED THAT CGT RECEIVED ONLY 18 PERCENT OF VOTE IN LAST ELECTION OF MUNICIPAL SANITARY WORKERS. ARTICLE EXPLAINED THAT SOLE REASON FOR CGT ACTION WAS ANGER AT SANCTIONING OF CGT MILITANT FOR DISTRIBUTING TRACTS

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DURING WORKING HOURS. DEFFERRE CONTINUED HIS ATTACK ON REGIONAL

AND NATIONAL TELEVISION FEBRUARY 3, LABELING ASSAULT AS 'GANGSTERISM AND FASCISM'. PROVENCAL OF JANUARY 4 RAN FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL BY DEFFERRE HEADED 'VIOLENCE AND LIBERTY'. TEXT CALLED ON CGT AND P.C. TO SPEAK OUT AND STATED EVENT WAS REVEALING OF MANNER 'CERTAIN PEOPLE CONCEIVE OF LIBERTIES'. IN P. S. TO EDITORIAL DEFFERRE ANNOUNCED HE HAS, AS MAYOR OF MARSEILLE, TAKEN ROLE OF PLAINTIFF IN CASE (PARTIE CIVILE) 'IN ORDER THAT JUSTICE BE DONE'.

3. COMMUNIST DAILY LA MARSEILLAISE COUNTERATTACKED FEBRUARY 4 WITH FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL HEADED 'WHAT ARE THE MAYOR, THE F.O. AND THE PROVENCAL LOOKING FOR?' TEXT CLAIMS MAYOR S VERSION OF 'INCIDENT' IS UNTRUE AND STATES HE IS EITHER BADLY INFORMED OR HAS 'SEIZED A PRETEXT' TO LAUNCH A POLITICAL OPERATION WITH UNKNOWN GOAL. EDIT CLOSES BY SUGGESTION THAT DEFFERRE SEEK ANSWERS TO HIS QUESTIONS IN PROJECT OF DECLARATION OF LIBERTIES SUBMITTED TO FRENCH PEOPLE BY P.C. MARSEILLAISE SUPPORTS EDITORIAL WITH MESSAGES FROM C.G.T. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND P.C. BUREAU OF MARSEILLE PLACING BLAME ON F.O. REPRESENTATIVE AND EMPHASIZING CGT AND P.C. EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF 'LIBERTY AND UNION RIGHTS'.
SIMPSON

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